

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

(with complete listing)

1. (Currently amended) A method for coupling a riser or umbilical to a ~~moored~~-floating ~~body~~tension leg platform having a hull with a keel, the method comprising the steps of,  
providing a tendon porch on said hull of said tension leg platform,  
connecting a lower end of a mooring tendon to a sea bed and an upper end of said  
mooring tendon to said tendon porch to moor said tension leg platform, said tendon being  
predominantly vertically oriented and under tension so as to vertically restrain said tension leg  
platform,

coupling ~~[[a]]~~the lower end of each of a plurality of tubular members to at least one  
subsea well so that ~~[[an]]~~the interior of each of said plurality of tubular members is in fluid  
communication with said at least one subsea well,

longitudinally suspending ~~[[an]]~~the upper end of each of said plurality of tubular  
members from an first-upper elevation above said hull, and

laterally supporting each of said plurality of tubular members at a second-lower elevation  
at said hull such that each of said plurality of tubular members borders said hull, said ~~second~~  
lower elevation fixed with respect to said hull.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of,  
laterally supporting a first of said plurality of tubular members below the waterline.

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of,  
laterally supporting a first of said plurality of tubular members at an elevation generally  
corresponding to the elevation of said keel.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of,

laterally supporting a first of said plurality of tubular members at an outboard-facing surface of said hull.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of, laterally supporting a first of said plurality of tubular members at an inboard-facing surface of said hull.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of, laterally supporting a first of said plurality of tubular members at a surface of a moonpool in said hull.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of, receiving a portion of a first of said plurality of tubular members in a bearing assembly fixed to said hull at said second elevation, laterally supporting said first tubular member by said bearing assembly, and allowing longitudinal movement of said first tubular member relative to said bearing assembly.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7 further comprising the step of, allowing side entry of said first tubular member into said bearing assembly.

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7 further comprising the step of, allowing vertical entry of said first tubular member into said bearing assembly.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of, tensioning a first of said plurality of tubular members.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of, suspending a first of said plurality of tubular members at a generally vertical orientation.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of,  
suspending ~~[[said]]~~the upper end of a first of said plurality of tubular members from an elevation above the waterline.
14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of,  
suspending a first of said plurality of tubular members by a spring.
15. (Cancelled)
16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of,  
receiving a first of said plurality of tubular members in a vertical passage formed through said hull, and  
laterally supporting said first tubular member in said vertical passage.
- 17-22. (Cancelled)
23. (Currently amended) A floating ~~body~~tension leg platform comprising,  
a submerged buoyant hull having a keel,  
a column having a lower end coupled to said hull, said column extending above the waterline,  
a deck coupled to an upper end of said column,  
a mooring ~~device~~tendon having an upper end ~~coupled~~connected to said hull and a lower end coupled to the seabed,  
a bearing assembly having a vertically oriented generally cylindrical passage therein and fixed to and bordering an exterior surface of said hull,  
a tensioner ~~coupled~~connected to said floating ~~body~~tension leg platform and disposed at an elevation above said hull, and

a tubular member having a lower end coupled to a subsea well so that an interior of said tubular member is in fluid communication with said subsea well, said tubular member having an upper end longitudinally suspended by said tensioner, said tubular member passing within said passage of said bearing assembly and laterally supported by said bearing assembly.

24. (Currently amended) The floating ~~body~~tension leg platform of claim 23 wherein, said mooring ~~device~~tendon is predominantly vertically oriented and tensioned by said buoyant hull so as to restrain vertical movement of said tension leg platform.

25. (Currently amended) The floating ~~body~~tension leg platform of claim 23 wherein, said tubular member is predominantly vertically oriented and tensioned by said buoyant hull.

26. (Currently amended) The floating ~~body~~tension leg platform of claim 23 wherein, said bearing assembly is designed and arranged to provide lateral support to said tubular member while allowing said tubular member to move in a longitudinal direction within said bearing assembly.

27-29. (Cancelled)

30. (Currently amended) The floating ~~body~~tension leg platform of claim 23 wherein, said bearing assembly includes a longitudinal slot which communicates with said passage and which is designed and arranged to allow side entry of said tubular member.

31. (Currently amended) The floating ~~body~~tension leg platform of claim 23 wherein, said bearing assembly is disposed at an elevation generally corresponding to the elevation of said keel.

32. (Currently amended) The floating ~~body~~tension leg platform of claim 23 wherein,

said bearing assembly is disposed at an elevation generally corresponding to the elevation of said upper end of said mooring device.

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Currently amended) The floating ~~body~~tension leg platform of claim 23 wherein, said tensioner is disposed above the waterline.

35. (Currently amended) The floating ~~body~~tension leg platform of claim 23 wherein, said tensioner is disposed on said deck.

36. (Currently amended) A floating ~~body~~tension leg platform comprising,  
a submerged buoyant hull having a keel,  
a column having a lower end coupled to said hull, said column extending above the waterline,  
a deck coupled to an upper end of said column,  
a mooring tendon having an upper end coupled to said hull and a lower end coupled to the seabed,

first and second apertures each being vertically formed through said hull and having a closed vertical periphery throughout the extent of said aperture through said hull,

first and second tensioners each coupled to said floating ~~body~~tension leg platform and disposed at an elevation above said hull,

a first tubular member having a lower end in fluid communication with a subsea well and an upper end suspended by said first tensioner, said first tubular member passing within said first aperture, and

a second tubular member having a lower end in fluid communication with a subsea well and an upper end suspended by said second tensioner, said second tubular member passing within said second aperture.

37. (Currently amended) The floating ~~body~~tension leg platform of claim 36 wherein, said mooring tendon is predominantly vertically oriented and tensioned by said buoyant hull so as to vertically restrain said tension leg platform.

38. (Cancelled)

39. (Currently amended) The floating ~~body~~tension leg platform of claim 36 further comprising,

a bearing assembly disposed between said first tubular member and said first aperture, said bearing assembly designed and arranged to provide lateral support to said first tubular member while allowing said first tubular member to move in a longitudinal direction within said first aperture.

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Currently amended) The floating ~~body~~tension leg platform of claim 36 wherein, said first tensioner is disposed above the waterline.

42. (Currently amended) The floating ~~body~~tension leg platform of claim 36 wherein, said first tensioner is disposed on said deck.

43-44. (Cancelled)

45. (Currently amended) The floating ~~body~~tension leg platform of claim 23 wherein, said bearing assembly is disposed at an outboard-facing surface of said hull.

46. (Currently amended) The floating ~~body~~tension leg platform of claim 23 wherein, said bearing assembly is disposed at an inboard-facing surface of said hull.

47. (Currently amended) The floating ~~body~~tension leg platform of claim 23 wherein, said bearing assembly is disposed in a moonpool in said hull.